

Commentary: Estimated and true hinge axis

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Having devoted almost 30 years to the study of functional occlusion in orthodontics, it is heartening to finally see articles such as this in publication.

Drs. Wood and Korne have established a baseline for reliability of a measuring system to measure condylar distractions on the articulator in three dimensions. They have also established that an estimated facebow transfer is accurate enough for clinical assessment of these distractions.

Their findings correlate with the studies done in our practice and also a recent Master's Thesis by Dr. Thomas Utt (1991) of the Armed Forces Orthodontic Residency Program, Ft. Meade, Md., in terms of the use of this approach to measure direction and amount of condylar distractions.

Properly handled instrumentation and interocclusal registration can, I believe, give us a

much more accurate picture of condylar displacements due to the occlusion than can oriented tomography. This, in turn, can lead to a better understanding of the role of occlusion in symptomatology and post-retention relapse.

An Angle Society thesis published in this journal in 1986 by R. Andrew Giradot using the MPI and oriented tomography to study condylar repositioning of TMJ patients with splint therapy is in agreement with the concept of the use of this approach to more accurately track condylar positional changes.

At last, some sound scientific studies are being done that will lay the groundwork for the concepts of occlusion that should not be ignored by orthodontists.

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